

Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability
December 14, 2016
The Executive Office of Health & Human Services
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA

The Chair, Mr. Jim Brett, called the meeting to order at 4:10pm and welcomed Commission members and DDS staff. Commission members: Anne Fracht, George Ford, Jim Cassetta, Joann Simons, Marjorie Cohen, Jennifer Treseler and Paul Zerola. DDS staff: Commissioner Elin Howe, Jane Ryder, Laney Bruner-Canhoto, Margaret Van Gelder and Victor Hernandez. EOHHS staff: Patricia Mackin, Undersecretary of Human Services.

Commissioner Howe provided an update on the membership status of the GCID. Two terms are up for renewal: Ms. Cohen's and Mr. Ford's. If a term is up, the existing member can remain seated until the seat has been filled. Ms. Jill Larsen has resigned her seat. Applications for any available seat on the GCID can be sent to the Commissioner who will forward them to EOHHS.

Laney Bruner-Canhoto, Assistant Commissioner for Quality Management, provided an update from the last review of the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report. Ms. Bruner-Canhoto summarized the objective of the audit which was to determine whether Massachusetts complied with Federal Waiver and State requirements for reporting and monitoring critical incidents involving developmentally disabled Medicaid beneficiaries. After reviewing claims for the ER visits to determine the diagnosis codes that might be indicative of abuse or neglect, the audit concluded that DDS did not adequately safeguard 146 of the 334 developmentally disabled Medicaid beneficiaries audited because the DDS system of reporting and monitoring critical incidents did not work as expected. Despite the concerns with the methodology and findings of the OIG report, DDS has taken all of the OIG's recommendations and implemented them. In particular, a series of mandated reporter trainings, in webinar and face to face formats have occurred with DDS staff and providers. Trainings for DDS management staff on available reports and how to conduct a thorough review of incidents was completed. Trainings for DDS provider and state staff on the updated incident management system were completed as well. A "Quality is No Accident" brief on ER/Urgent Care has been developed and disseminated. DDS remains committed to a zero tolerance policy towards abuse & neglect, remains committed to self-reflection and continuously reviewing its quality management/improvement system. Ms. Bruner-Canhoto also provided an update regarding DDS' work on the CMS HCBS Community Rule. DDS has developed its transition plan and it is presently under review in the Secretariat.

Margaret Van Gelder provided an update on the 2013 Employment Blueprint. All sheltered workshops were closed on June 30, 2016. All individuals placed from sheltered workshops have moved into employment services and/or a community day support service. To date, 6,500 individuals are participating in individual and/or group supported employment, with 60% receiving minimum wage. DDS has partnered with the Institute for Community Inclusion on trainings for pathways to employment by offering webinars, technical assistance and regional employment collaboration. DDS was recently awarded a five year Federal grant to work with MRC & DESE to enhance the transition to employment initiatives from finding a job to providing assistance for individual job searches. Ms. Van Gelder also provided an update on the social inclusion efforts of the Department. Social (or community) inclusion provides opportunities for individuals to be fully accepted, engaged and active participants in all aspects of their community life. It is about people being accepted for who they are as individuals beyond their disability, with the focus on ways they can contribute to community life. She gave examples of efforts that foster community partnership and social inclusion such as friendships, meaningful relationships, typical living arrangements; integrated employment and natural supports.

Jane Ryder provided additional DDS updates:

- Autism- Each area office has a service coordinator for the autism needs in their area along with a program coordinator in each region. The Department has developed new services for this population to help address their individual needs. These include life coaching, housing searches and providing a clubhouse service model. DDS continues to meet with DMH on a regular basis on supporting those who also may have a mental health diagnosis. To date, there are 946 found eligible with about 40 found eligible each month.
- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) - DDS continues to develop new homes to comply with the settlement agreement. Each individual has their own clinical needs requiring programs to assist them to regain a meaningful life that was lost due to an injury or medical event. To date there are over 240 in the ABI Residential Habilitation program.
- Self-Direction- enrollment in self-directed services continues to grow at a pace not as quickly as we would like. To date there are over 870 individuals self-directing their supports.

There was a motion by Mr. Zerola for the approval of the September 2016 minutes that was seconded by Ms. Simons. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Simons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Zerola. Motion approved and Mr. Brett adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.